

Are Web Apps a Feasible Alternative to Native Apps in the Mobile Environment?

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Abstract

Within a very short timeframe, mobile devices have become an intrinsic part of everyday life. The versatility of the devices is driven by a process which allows users to run mobile apps to perform tasks. The majority of mobile content today is consumed through custom built native apps. Web apps, although popular in the desktop environment, have never enjoyed the same success in the mobile environment. Recent updates to web technologies have reignited the question of the viability of web apps on mobile devices. Understanding the differences, advantages and disadvantages of each paradigm may help in deciding if the option of web or native is the best fit for differing circumstances. The goal of this paper is to investigate if web apps are a feasible alternative to native apps in the mobile environment.